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| APPLICATION NO.  | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/846,714   | 05/01/2001  | Timothy G. Caudle    | D-43260-04          | 5247             |
| 28236  | 7590        | 05/09/2002           |                     |                  |
| CRYOVAC, INC.<br>SEALED AIR CORP<br>P.O. BOX 464<br>DUNCAN, SC 29334 |             |                      | EXAMINER            |                  |
|  |             |                      | PASCUA, JES F       |                  |
|  |             | ART UNIT             | PAPER NUMBER        |                  |
|  |             | 3727                 |                     |                  |

DATE MAILED: 05/09/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Offic Action Summary**

Applicati n N .

09/846,714

Applicant(s)

CAUDLE, TIMOTHY G. *CH*

Examiner

Jes F. Pascua

Art Unit

3727

*-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --***Period for Reply****A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.**

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 April 2002.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

4) Claim(s) 50-53 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 50-53 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some \* c) None of:

- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
- Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a)  The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

1)  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4)  Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_ .

2)  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5)  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3)  Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_ . 6)  Other: \_\_\_\_\_ .

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Terminal Disclaimer***

1. The terminal disclaimer filed on 4/5/02 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application, which would extend beyond the expiration date of U.S. Patent No. 6,244,747 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 50-53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Schwarzkopf.

As a note, the convex and concave surfaces of the lateral edge seam 34 or 35 are “substantially opposite” the convex and concave surfaces of the lateral edge seam 33 in each single pouch of the Schwarzkopf pair of pouches.

4. Claims 50-53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Schwarzkopf.

Figs. 7 and 8 of Schwarzkopf show a single pouch that is separable into two, smaller compartments.

5. Claims 50-53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bell.

Bell discloses, in Fig. 4, a single pouch comprising first and second lateral edges 164, 166. The first and second lateral edges include convex and concave (e.g. substantially s-shaped or non-rectilinear) surfaces or portions 204 that are substantially opposite each other. Bell further shows the distance between the first and second lateral edges 164, 166 at portions 192, 194 as substantially the same for all elevations of the pouch.

#### ***Response to Arguments***

6. Applicant's arguments filed 4/5/02 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant's argument that the convex and concave surfaces of the lateral edge seam 34 or 35 are not "substantially opposite" the convex and concave surfaces of the lateral edge seam 33 in single pouch of a pair of pouches in Schwarzkopf is opinion. The convex and concave surfaces of the lateral edge seam 34 or 35 are "substantially opposite" the convex and concave surfaces of the lateral edge seam 33 to the degree that they are on opposing, or opposite, edges of the pouch.

Regarding the argument that "making an individual pouch according to Schwarzkopf would not achieve a central object of the invention: the manufacture of pouches without generating scrap between subsequent pouches..." the method of forming the device is not germane to the issue of patentability of the device itself.

Applicant disagrees with the Examiner's characterization of Schwarzkopf (in paragraph 4 above) as a single pouch that is separable into two, smaller compartments. However, there is no limitation in applicant's claims that would preclude the structure of seam 33 in Fig. 7 of Schwarzkopf.

Regarding applicant's remarks to the Bell reference, there is nothing in applicant's claims to distinguish applicant's convex and concave surface on the "lateral edges" from the convex and concave inner surface of the inner seals of Bell. Furthermore, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., outer lateral edges) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

Regarding applicant's argument that the convex and concave inner surfaces of the inner seals are not "substantially opposite" the convex and concave inner surfaces of the inner seals of Bell is opinion. The convex and concave inner surfaces of the inner seal are "substantially opposite" the convex and concave inner surfaces of the inner seal to the degree that they are on opposing, or opposite, seals of the Bell pouch.

### ***Conclusion***

7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jes F. Pascua whose telephone number is 703-308-1153. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thurs..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lee W. Young can be reached on 703-308-2572. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-3570 for regular communications and 703-305-3579 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1078.



Jes F. Pascua  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3727

JFP  
May 8, 2002

**Attachment for PTO-948 (Rev. 03/01, or earlier)**

**6/18/01**

**The below text replaces the pre-printed text under the heading, "Information on How to Effect Drawing Changes," on the back of the PTO-948 (Rev. 03/01, or earlier) form.**

**INFORMATION ON HOW TO EFFECT DRAWING CHANGES**

**1. Correction of Informalities -- 37 CFR 1.85**

New corrected drawings must be filed with the changes incorporated therein. Identifying indicia, if provided, should include the title of the invention, inventor's name, and application number, or docket number (if any) if an application number has not been assigned to the application. If this information is provided, it must be placed on the front of each sheet and centered within the top margin. If corrected drawings are required in a Notice of Allowability (PTO-37), the new drawings **MUST** be filed within the **THREE MONTH** shortened statutory period set for reply in the Notice of Allowability. Extensions of time may **NOT** be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) or (b) for filing the corrected drawings after the mailing of a Notice of Allowability. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

**2. Corrections other than Informalities Noted by Draftsperson on form PTO-948.**

All changes to the drawings, other than informalities noted by the Draftsperson, **MUST** be made in the same manner as above except that, normally, a highlighted (preferably red ink) sketch of the changes to be incorporated into the new drawings **MUST** be approved by the examiner before the application will be allowed. No changes will be permitted to be made other than correction of informalities, unless the examiner has approved the proposed changes.

**Timing of Corrections**

Applicant is required to submit the drawing corrections within the time period set in the attached Office communication. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Failure to take corrective action within the set period will result in **ABANDONMENT** of the application.